

**CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2012 / 6:00 PM

**COMMUNITY & RECREATION SERVICES
15960 NORTH BULLARD AVENUE
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

A. Roll Call

Sandra Staehle (Chair), Susan deJong, Loretta Warner, Fred Ramsay, Margaret Lieu, Kathie Morgan (Vice Chair) (absent), Julie Richards (absent), Tara Combs, Paul Frie and Heather Donaldson

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Sandi Staehle (S. Staehle) reported that she attended the mural unveiling at Bicentennial Park where there were a few other board members in attendance as well. She said there was a nice turnout. She reported that she as well as Fred Ramsay (F. Ramsay), Connie Whitlock and Julie Richard attended the Work Session where the Art Hanging Policy was discussed. She reported that the Commission has lost the remaining \$995 left in the budget to hang the public art, however she further informed the Commission that Mark Coronado has located a sponsor to put up \$1,000 to make up for the loss. She reported that Julie Richard will be leaving the West Valley Arts Council in mid-August, and there will be an interim director in her place until there is a permanent replacement. She reported that an event has been scheduled with Surprise and the Thunderbird Artists for next February. She brought to light that this event raises the question as to why the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission has not been advised of the event. S. Staehle said this raises issues with respect to what happens to WHAM and Art is Alive in Surprise. She expressed a concern that the Thunderbird Artists will likely go to the Tourism Advisory Commission to obtain a grant to assist them, and will the Tourism Commission give a grant to fund two Arts Festivals. S. Staehle thanked Tara Combs on behalf of the Commission for her service to the Board.

Susan deJong (S. deJong) reported on several events she had attended and worked at. She reported on the mural event which also had an original town site art show attached to it. She is now starting work on a new mural for a local business. She advised the Commission of a new project going on with Benevilla including Ballet Folklorico in October which will most likely be the official opening of the Community Garden. She also reported that she and Margaret Lieu (M. Lieu) have almost completed the events calendar process which should be up and running by September.

Loretta Warner (L. Warner) had no current event reports.

Fred Ramsay (F. Ramsay) reported that he has attended several council meetings and workshops. He urged the Commission to attend these meetings.

M. Lieu reported that she had attended a council meeting where she addressed Mayor and Council on the Arts and Cultural Commission's budget. She helped paint the mural and attended the mural unveiling which she said went off very well. She also reported of several other events she attended. She distributed the finalized calendar form to the Commission and asked for feedback.

D. Staff reports

Tara Combs reported that she was asked by Director Coronado to attend this evening's meeting to give an update to the Commission on The Thunderbird Artists event. She confirmed that the City of Surprise has received a Facility Use Request from The Thunderbird Artists for their proposed event to take place February 1st through February 3rd. She advised the Commission that this event is not meant to replace any current event held in the City. She reported that part of the strategic plan of Mayor and Council, the Arts Commission and the City Manager is to bring tourism and events to the City of Surprise. The Thunderbird Artists did say that they will provide a table at their event to the Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission and WHAM so that any arts and cultural events can be promoted including the Art is Alive in Surprise festival. She reported that she has spoken with Connie Whitlock of WHAM and has sent her the facility use agreement, and she is waiting for her to return it to lock in her date for the Art is Alive in Surprise festival of the first weekend in April which has already been penciled in. She also has forwarded the Tourism application to Connie Whitlock. T. Combs notified the Commission that The Thunderbird Artists have requested the Tourism application as well. She further advised that if The Thunderbird Artists do apply for the Tourism grant, staff will come and present that information to this board. Paul Frie (P. Frie) advised the Commission that normal practice is that once contracts have been signed and dates are finalized, staff usually then advises the affected Board or Commission to let them know what is coming. T. Combs advised the Board that a member of staff will keep the Commission updated on The Thunderbird Artists' event. M. Lieu asked if the Commission had not found out about the event on their own, at what point staff would have brought it to their attention. T. Combs responded that P. Frie would have notified this Commission at this evening's meeting to put this on their radar. She reported that the event came to the attention of the City after the Arts and Cultural Commission's June meeting. She also advised the Commission that she will advise P. Frie of any event facility requests that are brought to the City having to do with the Arts so that he can update the Commission during the next regularly scheduled meeting in staff reports or place a call to S. Staehle to let her know prior to the next Commission meeting. F. Ramsay asked if this Commission's advice will be sought on these types of things. T. Combs reassured the Commission that their recommendation is important and that the ultimate decision for funding any events is made by Council who will hear the Commission's recommendations. L. Warner commented that even though the Commission has no funding this year they do have the calendar as a primary function. S. Staehle commented that they also have the breakfast forum coming up in September.

P. Frie went over the checklist with the Commission. He advised the Commission that Michael Bailey was directed by Council to attend a future meeting to discuss the Public Art Hanging Policy. He apologized to the Commission for a statement made during the last meeting which was incorrect in that Council was indeed supplied with the supplemental for the Commission's budget recommendation prior to the finalization of the FY 10 budget. He advised the Commission that the elections for chair and vice chair will be held at the August meeting.

H. Donaldson advised that any reports she has will come during the planning item on the agenda.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Matt McAuley of the Ghostlight Theater advised the Commission that as of last month Dysart Community Education will no longer be partnering with the Ghostlight Theater, and therefore they no longer have a spot to perform in. He asked the Commission for any guidance or help in finding a place to perform. He also informed the Commission that he has spoken with Dave Moss who advised him of the City's new use agreement with the school district, however at this point nobody can tell him what it does, how it works and what they can use it for. S. deJong suggested Willow Canyon High School which has a small theater with a couple hundred seats. P. Frie advised that he has a meeting next week with the Superintendent and the Director of Community Education for the DUSD where he would speak to them about this topic. P. Frie also informed Mr. McAuley that Shadow Ridge also has a new performing arts building as well.

Andy Cepon – Surprise resident – informed the Commission that he will defer any comments regarding the potential Thunderbird Artists festival until Mark Coronado attends next month's meeting. He also wanted to compliment staff, Tara Combs and in particular Heather Donaldson, with this Commission for the timely posting of agendas and attachments. He said that staff is very good about noticing meetings and he really appreciates the extra work in light of extra duties resulting from budget and staff cuts.

CONSENT AGENDA

E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012 Arts & Cultural Advisory Board Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 4, 2012 Arts & Cultural Advisory Board Meeting – Fred Ramsay, 2nd Loretta Warner. Five yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Planning for West Valley Breakfast Forum

M. Lieu reported that she and S. deJong have been brainstorming and she was hoping to use tonight's time as a brainstorming session as to what the Commission can do as far as where they want to take their discussion, who they want as a key note speaker, etc. H. Donaldson advised the Commission that Dianne Cripe has included in the minutes from the last forum all the cities that were invited and who came. S. Staehle mentioned that invitations were sent directly to the Cities and then disbursed at each city liaison's discretion. She recommended that there be a save the date sent out this month. M. Lieu suggested that in light of budget cuts across the board throughout the west side cities, the Commission might want to take the conversation into a positive look on what we can do or how we can serve as an advisory board Commission and what capacity we can serve the organizations around us with the absence of a budget as well as hopefully partnering up with other cities and sharing ideas of what they can do. S. Staehle commented that it would be good to have

someone from the City of Peoria to come to the forum as Peoria has a large budget just for grants. She also advised that Peoria has a very detailed master arts plan which covers everything from public art to a maintenance policy and funding to maintain the public art. M. Lieu commented that it would be a good idea for all the cities to share with each other all of their policies, strategic plans, etc. and have an open discussion during the forum amongst all of the attendees. M. Lieu thought it would be interesting to discuss other cities art hanging policies and then take that information to council and make a recommendation on what the pros and cons of each are. M. Lieu suggested discussing donations, not only monetary but donations of art. L. Warner commented that the City would have to have a policy for donations, and it would be nice to hear how other Cities have managed it. M. Lieu commented that another possibility would be to have Bob Booker from the Arizona Arts Commission, who works directly with grants and funding, come to speak at the forum as the Arizona Arts Commission has also lost federal funding, and it would be good to hear how they are coping with it and what they are changing so that they can continue moving forward. The Commission agreed that all of M. Lieu's ideas are good and approved her to move forward to plan the forum accordingly. M. Lieu said that by the next meeting she will have a draft made up of what the agenda would look like and a request for all the cities on what they should bring. S. deJong asked if we will be providing food. P. Frie said that we will be providing the room and the food. H. Donaldson advised the Commission that if someone wants to forward a save the date flyer to her she would be happy to forward it along to the agreed upon attendees. The Commission directed H. Donaldson to forward the Save the Date immediately upon receipt. H. Donaldson asked the Commission to please let her know if there is anyone they would like on the guest list besides the west valley cities and WHAM and WVAC. M. Lieu asked the Commission to please e-mail to her any artists and residents around the cities that they would like to invite so she can forward them to H. Donaldson. H. Donaldson said she will forward a proposed list of invitees to M. Lieu for her approval prior to forwarding the Save the Date flyer. She also advised the Commission that as far as where the meeting will be held, she is currently in touch with someone from Communiversity as well as someone from our Facilities Department and she is waiting on availability. She advised that she should be receiving an answer about that this week. She also advised that she is going to hold the Library Conference Room for the forum in case the Communiversity will not be available. She confirmed with the Commission that they would like to have the room set up in a large rectangle or Chevron shape.

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Discussion of events to be placed on the City calendar.

No discussion

Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and possible action to place items on a future agenda.

Suggested items for August's Agenda:

- Review events calendar form
- Discussion with Mark Coronado
- Discussion with Michael Bailey regarding Art Hanging Policy
- Chair and Vice-Chair elections
- Update on breakfast forum agenda

Suggested items for September's Agenda:

- Discussion with Janeen Gaskins regarding alternate funding sources

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Andy Cepon, Surprise resident, requested that the City Grant Writer, Janeen Gaskins, come to speak with the Commission regarding the possibility of grants and additional funding sources for this Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Susan deJong, 2nd Loretta Warner. Five yes votes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mark Coronado, Director
Community & Recreation Services

CERTIFICATION:

I, Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist for the City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on July 9, 2012.

Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist